

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 10250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS XA
SUBJ: MOFA EVALUATION OF ROK PROSPECTS IN AFRICA

REF: SEOUL 9412

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING TWO-WEEK TOUR OF REPRESENTATIVE AFRICAN
CAPITALS MOFA OFFICIALS JUDGE ATMOSPHERE TO BE GRADUALLY
TURNING IN ROK FAVOR. VISITING ROK OFFICIALS FOUND HOST OFFICIALS
GENERALLY FRIENDLY AND WELL INFORMED ON KOREA, ALTHOUGH NOT
NECESSARILY ABLE TO INFLUENCE POLICY FAVORABLY TOWARD ROK IF
MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS DO NOT AGREE. MOFA JUDGES THAT MAJOR
FACTORS INFLUENCING MORE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE ARE (A) THE
EFFECT OF THE ANGOLA AND SPANISH SAHARA ISSUES, (B) GROWING
CONSCIOUSNESS OF ROK NATIONAL STRENGTH, (C) THE MORE
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REASONABLE ROK ATTITUDE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, AS CONTRASTED
WITH THE DPRK, AND (D) THE FAVORABLE EFFECTS OF U.S. EFFORTS
IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

1 MOFA MID-EAST AND AFRICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR RO YONG-CHAN AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG U-YONG

TOLD POLCOUNS AND EMBOFF DECEMBER 28 THAT THEIR DECEMBER 1-14 TOUR OF AFRICAN NATIONS HAD GENERALLY GIVEN THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ROK IMAGE WAS GRADUALLY IMPROVING IN AFRICA. THEY CAUTIONED HOWEVER THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE IMMEDIATELY REFLECTED IN UNGA VOTES ON KOREA.

2. RO PROVIDED FOLLOWING COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF HIS TRAVELS.

A. SENEGAL: ROK RELATIONS SEEM TO BE IMPROVED. RO SAW DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, DIRECTOR OF CABINET, SECRETARY GENERAL, AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. (FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE ABSENT AT OAU MEETING IN KINSHASA DURING MOST OF TWO WEEK PERIOD WHEN ROK OFFICIALS WERE IN AFRICA.) RO RENEWED INVITATION TO SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT ROK AND SAID SENEGALESE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER HAVE ALREADY GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA IN 1977. VISIT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. SENEGALESE DIRECTOR OF CABINET TOLD RO SENEGAL WAS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY RATHER THAN SOCIALIST TOTALITARIAN LIKE NORTH KOREA. RO SAID HE LEARNED THAT SENEGAL HAD PLAYED MEDIATING ROLE IN ALBANIAN-MOROCCAN DISPUTE BUT HAD SUPPORTED MOROCCO ON POLISARIO ISSUE. RO SAID NORTH KOREAN RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO HAD BEEN REGARDED BY SENEGALESE AS INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN PROBLEM AND THAT SENEGAL RESENTED THIS ACTION. RO SAID ROK IS LOOKING INTO FISHERIES JOINT VENTURES WITH SENEGAL. HE SAID TWO ROK COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN ACTION IN THIS DIRECTION.

B. IVORY COAST: RO SAID HE SAW DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN IVORY COAST. ROK AMBASSADOR TOLD RO HE HAS IMPRESSION CONFIDENTIAL

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IVORY COAST MAY RECEIVE NORTH KOREAN NON-DIPLOMATIC MISSION. RO STATED THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION BUT NOTED THAT IMPROVEMENT IN IVORY COAST-NORTH KOREA RELATIONS COULD LEAD TO IVORY COAST ABSTENTION AT UNGA ON KOREA QUESTION.

C. GABON: RO MET WITH DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT GABON WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ROK. HE NOTED THAT ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON WILL VISIT TUNISIA, KENYA AND GABON IN LATE JANUARY 1977.

D. CAMEROON: RO MET DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. RO SAID ROK AMBASSADOR THOUGHT RO'S CONVERSATION REVEALED SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN GOC ATTITUDE TOWARD ROK. RO SAID GOC OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NO OBJECTION TO ROK POSITIONS ON KOREAN QUESTION, E.G. THEY FOUND DIRECT NK-SK TALKS TO BE A REASONABLE PROPOSAL AND SAW NO SENSE IN NK PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT US-NK TALKS WHICH WOULD NOT INCLUDE

SK. RO ALSO NOTED GOC HAD ACTIVELY OPPOSED USSR AND NK AMBAS-
SADORS BECOMING DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE SAID ROK DOES NOT
EXPECT TOO MUCH, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME
IMPROVEMENT IN GOC POSITION.

3. CHUNG SAID HE HAD VISITED THREE HOSTILE COUNTRIES AND
ONE FRIENDLY ONE:

A. SUDAN: CHUNG SAID SUDANESE ATTITUDE WAS BECOMING WARMER.
HE NOTED THAT SUDANESE EMBASSY PARIS ISSUED HIS VISA IN LESS
THAN AN HOUR DESPITE FACT HE HAD EXPECTED DIFFICULTY GETTING
VISA. ADDITIONALLY, HE SAID TWO SUDANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS
WAITED FOR HIS PLANE AT CAIRO AIRPORT ON MUSLIM HOLIDAY IN ORDER
TO ISSUE HIM SUDANESE VISA. CHUNG SAID SUDANESE IN CAIRO WERE
UNAWARE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED VISA IN PARIS. CHUNG WENT TO
SUDANESE EMBASSY CAIRO WITH THEM TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR
CONSIDERATION. CHUNG SAID HE ARRIVED IN KHARTOUM DURING MUSLIM
HOLIDAY AND WAS UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS
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THERE. HE NOTED THAT MAJOR ISSUE IN ROK SUDAN RELATIONSHIP
WAS SUDANESE PROPOSAL THAT ROK CONSTRUCT AND PROVIDE CREDITS
FOR FOUR LARGE NINE-STORY GUEST HOUSES FOR 1978 OAU CONFERENCE
ESTIMATED TO COST 15 MILLION DOLLARS. CHUNG SAID ROKG STUDYING
WHETHER INVESTMENT IS GOOD FINANCIAL RISK. HE NOTED ROK EXIM
BANK AND FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARRIVED IN KHARTOUM AS HE
LEFT. HE ALSO NOTED DAE-WOO CORPORATION ALSO HAS PEOPLE
STATIONED IN KHARTOUM.

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B. ETHIOPIA: CHUNG THOUGHT THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA HAD DETERIORATED FROM THE ROK POINT OF VIEW. HE NOTED ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS WHOM HE SAW WAS A YOUTH MOVEMENT LEADER WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TOLD CHUNG THAT SINCE ETHIOPIA WAS MOVING TOWARD SOCIALISM IT WAS NATURAL THAT THEY SUPPORT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. CHUNG TOLD HIM ROK WAS PREPARED TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ETHIOPIAN SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA. HE SAID HE TOLD HIM "RATHER FRANKLY" ROK WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA IF SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA CONTINUED. HE SAID ETHIOPIANS WANTED 100 THOUSAND DOLLARS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT GRANT FROM ROK WHICH CHUNG TOLD US WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNLESS ETHIOPIAN POSITION REVEALED GREATER "SINCERITY". CHUNG NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH ROK-ETHIOPIAN TRADE WAS IMPROVING MARKEDLY HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR IMPROVED POLITICAL RELATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING.

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C. KENYA: CHUNG SAW MOFA ASIAN DIRECTOR, OAU DIRECTOR AND AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR WHO WERE ALL FRIENDLY. HE NOTED THAT SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI'S VISIT TO ROK, RELATIONS WERE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE. HE NOTED WAIYAKI'S INTEREST IN BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH ROK AND SAID MRS. WAIYAKI WAS ORGANIZING KENYAN WOMEN'S VISIT TO KOREA.

D. UGANDA: CHUNG SAW FOREIGN MINISTER, POLITICAL BUREAU DIRECTOR, OAU BUREAU DIRECTOR, AND GENERAL AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR ALL OF WHOM WERE FRIENDLY. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT UGANDANS HAS "STAYED AWAY" ON KOREAN QUESTION AT COLOMBO AND SAID THEY WOULD HAVE SAME THING HAD QUESTION BEEN DEBATED AT 31ST UNGA. CHUNG SAID NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITIES IN KAMPALA WERE "VERY LOW POSTURE". HE SAID ROKG WAS THINKING ABOUT INVITING AMIN TO VISIT SEOUL BUT SAID THERE WAS SOME DOUBT ABOUT THIS COURSE ON PART OF MOFA AFRICAN BUREAU. (POLCOUNS NOTED AMIN'S ERRATIC BEHAVIOR AND POOR REPUTATION AND SUGGESTED ROK MIGHT DO WELL TO AVOID BEING TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH HIM).

4. IN CONCLUSION, CHUNG SAID HE THOUGHT FOUR ISSUES HAD

GENERALLY INFLUENCED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN AFRICA IN DIRECTION
MORE FAVORABLE TO ROK. THESE FACTORS WERE:

(A) THE EFFECT OF THE ANGOLA AND SPANISH SAHARA ISSUES, (B)
GROWING CONSCIOUSNESS OF ROK NATIONAL STRENGTH, (C) THE MORE
REASONABLE ROK ATTITUDE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, AS CONTRASTED
WITH THE DPRK, AND (D) THE FAVORABLE EFFECTS OF U.S. EFFORTS
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